

# Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development

## Quarterly Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2021

Google Meet

### **Present:**

Steve Michael, Chair, Iowa Department of Human Rights  
Wendy Greenman, Iowa Workforce Development  
Julie Hibben, Iowa Department of Public Health  
Dr. Debbie Nistler, 4-H Youth Development  
James Piazza, Chair, State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council  
Mary Sheka, Iowa Economic Development/Volunteer Iowa  
Steffani Simbric, Child Advocacy Board  
Shanell Wagler, Early Childhood, Iowa  
Doug Wolfe, Iowa Department of Human Services  
Dale Woolery, Office of Drug Control Policy

### **Others Present:**

Brianna Deason, CJP/AmeriCorps, Youth Development Specialist  
Lexi Duffy, Iowa Youth Congress  
Kayla Jabra, Iowa Youth Congress  
Evan Johnson, Legislative Services Agency  
Abby King, CJP/AmeriCorps, Youth Action Squads/YPAR  
Brienne Messer, CJP/AmeriCorps, Iowa Youth Congress  
Jill Padgett, CJP, Juvenile Justice Expert  
Julie Rinker, CJP, Administrative Secretary  
Isabel Waller, Legislative Services Agency

### **• Welcome and Announcements**

Steve Michael welcomed all in attendance at 2:02 p.m. Introductions were made. A quorum was present.

Michael introduced new ICYD members: Dr. Debbie Nistler, Iowa State University Extension/4-H; and James Piazza, Chair, State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council (SIYAC).

### **• Approval of 6/23/21 Minutes**

Piazza moved to approve the minutes from the June meeting, seconded by Doug Wolfe. The motion was unanimously approved

### **• Youth Engagement State Agency Report Out**

Michael reported the following:



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- Several new AmeriCorps members have been hired to work on youth initiatives:
  - Breanna Simons—SIYAC
  - Abby King—Youth Action Squads and Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR)
  - Monserrat Saucedo—Youth Justice Council
  - Brianne Messer—Iowa Youth Congress.
  - Bri Deason—NYTD Ambassadors (temporary state employee)
- Juvenile ReEntry System—Three “navigators” are being funded through Iowa Vocational Rehab. These individuals will assist youth exiting group care with career navigation, employment, training, and connections with employers in their community.
- Youth-directed Subcommittee—The Juvenile Justice Advisory Council is seating a subcommittee comprised of youth with lived experience or who are passionate about the juvenile justice system.

**Early Childhood Iowa**—Shanell Wagler reported that due to COVID and shifts in home life, the agency is investigating best ways to support at-risk families. Efforts include a funding application in partnership with DHS. The funding would be used to help childcare businesses due to workplace shortages. She noted the dilemma families face when returning to the workplace.

Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) and Iowa Economic Development (IED) are also working to finalize a childcare task force report. Wagler sees a lot of connections resulting from that.

Wagler continues to serve on the Children’s Behavioral Health System Board. She noted the importance of strengthening this system to provide services to all ages.

**IWD**—Wendy Greenman reported the need for workers. Focus has been on workplace learning and career exploration—apprenticeships, internships, and job shadowing—and ways to engage and incorporate young people and provide information to make career choices.

**IED**—Mary Sheka reported on volunteer service in Iowa. A focus has been on a service learning initiative that engages after-school and community service based programs to provide training and technical assistance. Training is provided to adult mentors who work with young people.

**ISU/4-H**—Dr. Debbie Nistler reported that 4-H provides broad youth development (K-12) in all 99 counties. They are in the process of developing programs and strategies to broaden services to reach under-served youth—LGBTQ, mental health, foster care and immigrant communities. Career and college readiness is also a new focus.

Michael asked for information on training for youth and adults who work with youth.

**SIYAC**—James Piazza reported that the group has split into three groups to conduct YPAR—feedback wall, focus, and survey groups. The survey group hopes to reach 100 youth through social media, email, and church/school connections. The survey asks youth which issues they think is important in their community. The focus group will target approximately 50 youth and ask



broader questions related to motivation, problems/improvements, and other insight. The feedback group will target 300-400 youth by hosting feedback walls in 8-9 different locations (schools/colleges) and seeks input on local and state level issues and youth engagement. Hope to have all data collected by November 1. This information will be used to develop their legislative agenda.

**Department of Human Services**—Doug Wolfe reported on his work in child welfare. A recent focus has been on helping foster care youth identify mentors in communities and families. A recently implemented policy provides kinship payments to families. Previously it was only available to licensed foster care settings. Training requirements for Youth Transition Decision Meetings (YTDMs) have changed. The goal is to provide more coordinators. Wolfe noted that contract language is requiring more evidence-based interventions.

**Child Advocacy Board**—Steffani Simbric reported that they utilize approximately 700 volunteers across the state to work with CINA youth. Volunteer training focuses on ways to actively engage youth and the availability of programs and resources for youth.

**Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP)**—Dale Woolery noted how ODCP is different from other state agencies in that they don't directly work with youth. Instead, ODCP works with other state agencies through grants to fund research and provide prevention programs in communities. He noted the importance of youth engagement on various commissions.

**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**—Julie Hibben reported that the Bureau of Substance Abuse funds youth prevention grants to communities on substance abuse, suicide prevention, and mentoring programs. Hibben was hopeful that the Iowa Youth Survey would be administered this fall. Due to COVID-19, the survey was delayed a year. She noted that participation is down. There are several IDPH councils that have youth members. She noted the importance of youth engagement at both the state and local levels.

**Iowa Youth Congress**—Lexi Duffy reported that IYC is a non-partisan group through DHR that allows youth to experience democracy. The year begins with meetings in 11 districts to identify issues. Each district then selects one topic that is brought forth at Mock Congress (November 1). Bills are debated and topics are further narrowed and later become priorities and position papers. She hoped to rely on ICYD members as allies and resources.

Michael reported that a summary will be presented at the next meeting and members will identify areas of mutual interest; more discussion will focus on ICYD's three-year plan and state agency buy-in.

- **Forum for Youth Investment – YPAR Cohort**
- October 1-2: Race Equity Training

Michael reported that meetings have been held with YPAR cohorts from other states. To replicate success, the Forum for Youth Investment (FYI) is bringing together individuals that have done similar work.



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Michael reported the FYI is providing Race Equity training. The training will be held virtually on October 1-2. The purpose is to develop the capacity of participants to better understand the historical, cultural, and structural factors that influence racial disparities and unjust outcomes. A total of 15 individuals can participate at no cost.

- **ICYD 3-Year Action Plan: Next Steps**
  - **Meeting with State Agency Directors**

Michael reported asked ICYD staff participants to arrange and participate in meetings with agency directors. Discussions will surround ICYDs goals and vision, and seek agency commitment to further this work.

- **Compensating ICYD Youth Members**
- **DHR Payment Policy**

Michael reported that the Department of Human Rights (DHR) has developed a payment policy for youth participation. There are three levels: 1) a flat fee for speaking at a meeting or presenting information, 2) an hourly rate, or 3) an agreed upon amount for completing a particular task. He offered to share the policy with other agencies.

- **Connecting Youth to State Agency Projects**  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfToefXTmv1QEv5Uc8MmXgwzDaGWCzlu189K1HOdrbTqIC70g/viewform>

Padgett provided an overview of the above form that agencies can utilize to request assistance or coordination with youth speakers. A 30-day advance notice is required.

- **Agency Updates**
  - **Each agency share at least 3 things they're doing to advance PYD/AYE**

Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed. The December meeting will include discussion on positive youth development framework and formation of a group to accomplish this activity.

- **Adjourn**

There was no further discussion. The meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rinker  
Administrative Secretary  
Div. of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning



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